

Case Study // Round Table SDG 12: Successful approaches to delivering on Sustainable Consumption and Production by 2030

Sustainable consumption and production in the national policy landscape of Sweden Sweden *Level: national*

Summary

In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sweden's ambition for Sweden is to become a leader in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including goal No. 12 to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns and sub-goal 12.1 on the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes. SCP is a key concept for Sweden, and has been addressed through a broad range of policies in the country (e.g. waste, energy, chemicals, food, housing, transport and urban planning, etc.), and multiple coordination mechanisms which support the design and implementation of integrated SCP policies at the national level.

Situation

Sweden follows an economic model of state and society that is often described as the 'Nordic model' and according to which social welfare and an inclusive and equitable society are among the central goals of public policies. High levels of human development and social progress in the national context however are coupled with relatively high levels of ecological impact per individual of the country, from the consumption perspective. The major challenge for Sweden remains how to manage a transition towards sustainable and equitable levels of domestic consumption and consequent resource use, in global terms.

Strategy

SCP is a key concept for Sweden, and has been addressed through a broad range of policies in the country (e.g. waste, energy, chemicals, food, housing, transport and urban planning, etc.). As part of its "Generation Goal", Sweden has set 16 Environmental Quality Objectives and 24 Milestone Targets to be achieved by 2020 (2050 in the case of the climate objective).

Moreover, a diverse range of relevant institutional and stakeholder coordination mechanisms are in place to ensure policy coordination and policy coherence. This includes:

- The national multi-stakeholder group to support and guide the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes in Sweden, chaired by the Swedish EPA: established in 2014, this multi-stakeholder group integrates representatives from the business, academia, the civil society sectors, as well as local authorities, trade unions, representatives of culture and youth.
- The inter-ministerial working group on sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency, chaired by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy.

As an example of the policies being put in place, the “Strategy for Sustainable Consumption” was launched in 2016 by the government, with the objective of creating an enabling sustainability framework for individual consumers. The Ministry of Finance presented the strategy on behalf of the government in October 2016. As part of the strategy, which foresees strong cooperation with and among municipalities, the business sector and civil society, planned policy measures are presented under seven areas. Emphasis is put on consumption, the business sector, harmful chemicals and key sectors – food, transport and housing. For example:

The promotion of repair, reuse and the sharing economy: A reduction in the rates of value-added tax (VAT) from 25 per cent to 12 per cent for the repair of bicycles, shoes, leather goods, clothing and household linen, furthermore for the repair and maintenance of white goods carried out in the home as well was introduced in early 2017.

The National Forum on Environmentally Smart Consumption was created in the context of the Strategy for Sustainable Consumption by the Swedish Consumer Agency early 2017 with the objective to stimulate knowledge sharing between public national and regional authorities, representatives from business associations, academia, municipalities, counties and civil society.

Results and impact

According to recent evaluations of the Swedish implementation of 10YFP, there is an increasing awareness among Swedish stakeholders about the need to shift to sustainable consumption patterns. Annual national multi-stakeholder laboratories have been arranged in Stockholm (SEPA-2015), Gothenburg (City of Gothenburg-2016) and Umeå (City of Umeå-2017). Leading principles for 10YFP stakeholder cooperation has been: exchange of knowledge across disciplines, co-creation and innovative solutions. Evaluations show that new contacts and networks have been established between frontrunners in the transition to SCP on the local, national and regional level. The Swedish EPA is currently reviewing its 10YFP implementation strategy based on the evaluations and the national implementation of Agenda 2030.

The newly established National Forum on Environmentally Smart Consumption have arranged round-table discussions on food during 2017 and developed a digital venue, for all actor working with environmentally sustainable consumption, to be launched in March 2018. During 2018 the Forum will focus on textiles, food and home electronics and arrange seminars, round table discussions, podcast and webinars to exchange knowledge, develop the quality of co-operation and stimulate innovation.

Challenges and lessons learned

Major challenges for the upcoming years are to focus on effective cooperation across sectors and national borders as well as with the business community to ensure that sustainable solutions become mainstream.

Potential for replication

The Nordic Council of Ministers working group on SCP have identified and reported Nordic Best Practices in the six areas focused in on-going UN 10YFP multi-stakeholder programmes; sustainable lifestyles, sustainable public procurements, sustainable tourism, consumer information, sustainable buildings and construction and sustainable food systems:

[http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1177169&dswid=5150.](http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1177169&dswid=5150)

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